

## Special Interest Articles:

- Save the Date
- Books to Birth Foundation
- Spring Mixer
- BBLP
- Announcement of Program Agenda for 2014 - 2015



## Individual Highlights:

Chuck Shoopman

*A quarterly newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Executive Institute Alumni*

## Professional Development Luncheon *The Importance of Leadership Development in the Public Sector*

*Chuck Shoopman, TN Institute for Public Policy*

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
TN Tower, Tennessee Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor



Chuck Shoopman is Assistant Vice President of the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service (IPS). The Institute is composed of five outreach organizations that connect people and solutions to improve the efficiency and performance of businesses and governments across Tennessee. Chuck leads the organization's efforts to help business and government leaders improve job retention, promote job growth, strengthen leadership capacity and build stronger, safer communities.

Shoopman currently serves as Past-President of the University Economic Development Association (UEDA), representing over 150 member institutions across the U.S., and as a member of the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) Board of Directors.

Before rejoining UT in 2004, Shoopman worked over ten years with the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Economic Development organization. While at TVA he served in a variety of leadership roles, including Acting Vice President of Economic Development. Program responsibilities ranged from managing the organization's revolving loan programs and small business assistance efforts to international industrial development activities.

An alumnus of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Vanderbilt University, Chuck and his wife Kathy are the proud parents of two adult sons and two adult daughters.

\*Contact Gerry Boaz for reservations: [gerry.boaz@cot.tn.gov](mailto:gerry.boaz@cot.tn.gov)

## TGEI Charity 2014

*Tim, Suzy, Charlie, & Oscar Bomgardner enjoying reading with Imagination Library*



### A GIFT FOR THE CHILDREN OF TENNESSEE

Back in 2004, when Dolly Parton and Tennessee's then Governor Bredesen began discussing Dolly's idea that children should have access to receiving no cost, high quality, age-appropriate books mailed directly to their homes, they were both imagining something with a lasting impact on the educational success of Tennessee's children. Then, when Tennessee launched its unique Imagination Library model statewide, the potential for positive impact grew exponentially.

Now, ten years later, their dreams and ours are reality as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program in Tennessee continues to thrive in all 95 counties – still the only statewide program in the nation. The *Governor's Books from Birth Foundation* (GBBF) serves as a funding partner for each of the 95 county affiliates, providing 50% of the cost of books and mailing with funding support from the Tennessee General Assembly, various foundations and individual donors. The GBBF matches all funds raised by each of Tennessee's Imagination Library program affiliates – a dynamic public-private partnership unlike any other in the U.S. The Dollywood Foundation secures these wonderful books at a reduced rate, maintains a book ordering system and mails them all across the country, as well as the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

Throughout 2014, the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation and Tennessee's Imagination Library program are celebrating ten years of providing high-quality, age-appropriate books to Tennessee's preschool-aged children at no cost to families and regardless of income. Over **220,000 books are being delivered monthly** to Tennessee children enrolled in this FREE program. Volunteers in all of Tennessee's 95 counties are enrolling children, raising funds for books and engaging their communities. Since 2004 when Tennessee's Imagination Library was established, more than **20 million books** have been delivered to children and over **400,000** children have "graduated" from the program, having reached the age of five!



*Imagination Library arrives in the mailbox!*

Our vision is to foster a love of learning and reading in all Tennessee preschool children, resulting in their improved long-term educational outcomes. Exactly two years ago, The Urban Child Institute released a research report showing that children who participated in the Imagination Library program before kindergarten had statistically higher kindergarten readiness scores than those not participating. Now, these children are in second grade and research shows that these same children who participated before kindergarten have higher second grade reading development scores than children who did not participate, suggesting that early introduction to reading pays dividends that go beyond kindergarten entry.

The GBBF is partnering with the Tennessee Department of Health on their "Welcome Baby" project in which an Imagination Library enrollment brochure is mailed with a welcome letter from the First Lady to every newborn in our state. Another partnership with the Department of Children's Services enrolls every child placed into foster care in the program. We are passionate about enrolling children as early as possible so that they can have a library of 60 books by the age of five.

Early childhood literacy and being able to read by grade three are absolutely critical to ensuring healthy outcomes for our state's youngest citizens.

Tennessee is truly blessed to have this unique public/private partnership model and we are grateful for the support of organizations like the TGEI (Tennessee Government Executive Institute). We need and appreciate your help in continuing to raise awareness of this program's importance. The cost of providing monthly books to a child is about **\$24 per year** in Tennessee, split evenly between the GBBF and each county's program affiliate.

The TGEI has adopted the GBBF as our charity for 2014; we will support this charity throughout the year and present the final total raised and check to them at our December 3, 2014 Annual Holiday Breakfast.

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*"All life is a chance. So take it! The person who goes furthest is the one who is willing to do and dare."*

*-Dale Carnegie*

## Leaders Making a Difference in State Government

### Black Belt Leadership Program



As of April 25th, 142 of the state's top leaders have enrolled in the Black Belt Leadership Program. They have been submitting their activities for Strategic Development, Internal Service, External Service, and Individualized Development points. Since the program kicked off in November 2013, participants have logged 2,572 Strategic Development points, 336 hours of Internal Service, 455 hours of External Service, and 770 Individualized Development points. That's a lot of Service and Development!

The BBLP committee will be reviewing eligible candidates for the next belt level twice a year. The first review is underway now and we expect to be able to award several yellow belts at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Tennessee Government Leadership Council. For those of you that didn't get your points logged in time for this review, we will be conducting the next review in September. You will get a reminder several weeks prior to the cutoff.

If you haven't signed up for the Black Belt Leadership Program, it's not too late! You can learn more about the program and register at <http://www.tn.gov/dohr/bblp.shtml>. In addition, questions can be addressed to the TGLC members of the Vision Committee, which is responsible for management of the program. Just send an e-mail to [Leadership.Council@tn.gov](mailto:Leadership.Council@tn.gov), and a committee member will respond to you promptly.

Join the other members of the BBLP who are making a difference while leading the way for State government!

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*"Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle"*

*-Abraham Lincoln*

## TGEI Spring Mixer



TGEI Alumni welcomed the first day of Spring with a mixer at *The Pub* in the Gulch on March 20, 2014. It was a great time to relax and enjoy good friends, food, and conversation. The mixer was an opportunity for some alumni to catch up, and for others, it was a chance to meet for the first time. A special guest, Theresa Carl, with the Governors Books from Birth Foundation (TGEI's chosen charity for 2014) joined us and provided insight about all of the amazing work they do for the children of Tennessee. Thanks to all who attended for making the first social event of 2014 a success. We look forward to seeing all of you at upcoming events.



*Save the Date!*  
*All Class Reunion Gala*  
*at the*  
*Governor's Mansion*  
*Wednesday, August 27, 2014*  
*(Invitation and Details to follow)*

**Save the Date – May 22  
Professional Development Luncheon**

**TGEI Alumni**



**TGEI Contact:**

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TGEI Steering Committee

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**Its football time in Tennessee!!!!**

Block of Tickets for the September 6<sup>th</sup> UTK Game honoring TGEI & TGMI alumni (80% off ticket price); includes pre-game Tailgate Party hosted by UT.  
Call or Email [Luvenia.Butler@tn.gov](mailto:Luvenia.Butler@tn.gov) if you are interested.

**Program Agenda for New Year**

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>February</u></p> <p>21 Newsletter Published<br/>18 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u></p> <p>17 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.<br/>20 Spring Mixer, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Location: TBD</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u></p> <p>21 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u></p> <p>5 Newsletter Published<br/>19 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.<br/>22 Professional Development Luncheon</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>June</u></p> <p>16 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>July</u></p> <p>21 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.<br/>28 Newsletter Published</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>August</u></p> <p>18 TGEI Orientation (TBI HQ Nashville)<br/>18 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.<br/>28 TGEI All Class Reunion Event/Charity Benefit</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>September</u></p> <p>6 UTK vs. Arkansas State Football Game &amp; Host Tailgate (TGEI &amp; TGMI)<br/>15 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p> | <p>21 – 26 TGEI Training, Week 1 (Knoxville)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>October</u></p> <p>6 Newsletter Published<br/>20 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.<br/>27 – 31 TGEI Training, Week 2 (Knoxville) Fall Conference</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>November</u></p> <p>17 Steering Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.<br/>19 2014 TGEI Graduation (Nashville – old Supreme Court Chambers 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>December</u></p> <p>3 TGEI Holiday Breakfast/Charity Benefit, Installation of Officers-2015<br/>8 “Lead On” Celebration</p> |
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**About Our Organization...**

*The mission of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI) is to promote effective leadership in state government by providing TGEI Alumni Network with*

*opportunities for education, leadership development, and networking with fellow alumni and state leaders.*

*The membership of the*

*Network is open to all TGEI participants who have completed the TGEI course sponsored by the UT and the TN Department of Human Resources.*

